

Remarks/Arguments:

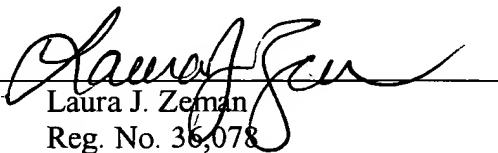
In the December 18, 2003 Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4 and 15-18 and allowed claims 5, 7, 19 and 21-30 pending in the application. The Examiner also stated that claims 6, 8-14 and 20 were withdrawn from consideration. However, Applicants' records show that claims 6, 8-14, 24, 26, 28 and 29 were previously withdrawn from consideration. Accordingly, Applicants have accepted those claims that have been identified as allowable by the Examiner which have not been withdrawn and have cancelled the claims listed as being rejected by the Examiner without prejudice or disclaimer.

This response cancels claims 1-4 and 15-18. Claims 6, 8-14, 24, 26, and 28-29 have been withdrawn from consideration. Therefore, claims 5, 7, 19, 20-23, 25, 27, and 30 remain in the application and are believed to be allowable.

Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all pending claims is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner wish to discuss any of the above in greater detail or deem that further amendment should be made to improve the form of the claims, then the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the Examiner's convenience.

Dated: March 4, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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